

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
INITIAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
THACH	FFG 43
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY (FFG 7)-class guided missile frigate	
Vessel Location	Current Status
Pearl Harbor, HI	Decommissioned

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
17 December 2013	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	Named for ADM John Smith “Jimmy” Thach, USN, recipient of two Navy Crosses, a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star Medal and the Navy Distinguished Service Medal plus various other campaign, service and unit awards. One of ADM Thach’s contributions to the Navy was his invention of the “Thach Weave,” a two-plane fighter tactic to cover each other from enemy fighters. This initiated the practice of having U.S. fighter planes operate in pairs instead of threes. This is still being used today.
Displacement	4,100 tons
Length	453 feet

Beam	47 feet
Draft	17 feet
Speed	29+ knots
Propulsion	Two General Electric LM2500 Gas Turbines for 41,000 total shaft horsepower One Controllable Reversible Pitch Propeller Two 350 Horsepower Electric Drive Auxiliary Propulsion Units
Armament	1-Mk 13 Mod 4 launcher, 4 SSM McDonnell-Douglas <i>Harpoon</i> missiles, 36 GDC-Pomona <i>Standard</i> SM-1MR missiles Guns: 1-Mk 75 3-inch/62 cal. OTO Melara gun, 1-Vulcan <i>Phalanx</i> CIWS, 4-.50 cal. MG's ASW Weapons: 6-324mm Mk 32 (2 triple) tubes / Mk 46 torpedoes
Laid Down	6 March 1982
Launched	18 December 1982
Built By	Todd Pacific Shipyard Corp., Los Angeles Division
Sponsor	Mrs. John S. Thach, widow of the late Admiral Thach
Delivered	24 February 1984
Commissioned	17 March 1984
Inactivated	TBA
Decommissioned	15 November 2013
Stricken	TBA

Vessel History

Deployments	<p>WESTPAC – 1986 (South China Sea- Valiant Usher 86-3); 1987 (Persian Gulf - OPERATION NIMBLE ARCHER); 1989-1990 (Indian Ocean-Persian Gulf); 1992 (Arabian Gulf- OPERATION REMEMBRANCE, OPERATION NEON SPARK, OPERATION GULFEX XII, OPERATION EASERN SAILOR, OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH); 1994-1995(Arabian Gulf- Maritime Interdiction Operations); 1996 (Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf- Protection of Maritime Prepositioning Ships along with Maritime Intercept Operations); 2001 (Arabian Gulf- Maritime Interdiction Operations); 2002-2003 (OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, Arabian Gulf- Maritime Interdiction Operations); 2005 (Arabian Gulf- Oil Platform Defense); 2008; 2009</p> <p>EASTPAC – 1991; 2006(Also Caribbean), 2007 (Caribbean Counter Narco-Terrorism Deployment); 2011(South Seas)</p> <p>Central America – 2013 (Counter-Illicit Trafficking Operations, OPERATION MARTILLO)</p>
Awards	<p>Four Meritorious Unit Commendations (one of which recognized her work in the CONSTELLATION Battle Group, one in the INDEPENDENCE Battle Group), two Navy “E” Ribbons, four Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals, one Southwest Asia Service Medal, two Humanitarian Service Medals (one recognizing her work in Operation UNIFIED ASSISTANCE and one for her service in the RONALD REAGAN Strike Group), and one Coast Guard unit Commendation.</p>
Noteworthy Events	<p>In early June 1990, THACH had her first major catastrophe. Oceanlord 26 went down while conducting routine flight operations off the coast of Hawaii. At the time, THACH had the SQR-19 TACTAS deployed so while maneuvering to recover the downed aircrew, she had to conduct an emergency recovery of the tail. LT Murphy, LT Dale and AW2 Duden spent nearly two hours in the water while THACH closed and recovered her tail. All aircrew members were successfully recovered.</p> <p>19 March 2001, AMSC (AW) Ronald Hiland was killed in a tragic helicopter accident on the flight deck of the THACH.</p> <p>While underway for TSTA training on 21 May 2002, THACH responded to a distress call from the research submarine DOLPHIN. Utilizing the RHIB, THACH’s boat crew played the primary role in rescuing all 43 crew members from DOLPHIN after they had abandoned ship due to a fire onboard. That day the THACH rescued 43 fellow sailors. THACH’s efforts were instrumental in preventing loss of life at sea and preservation of a</p>

	<p>unique national asset.</p> <p>THACH intercepted over 24 tons of drugs during the 2006 deployment to the South Pacific. For their accomplishment, the THACH was awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation and the prestigious U.S. Interdiction Coordinator (USIC) award from Mr. Pat Ward, the Director of Drug Interdiction at the White House.</p> <p>While on deployment in 2007 to the Pacific and Caribbean, the THACH took part in four successful drug busts. A combined total of nearly 23 tons of cocaine, with a street value estimated at \$600 million, was seized and 34 drug traffickers were detained.</p> <p>On 26 June 2008, the THACH, along with several other USN ships delivered much-needed relief supplies to the victims of Typhoon Fengshen on the island of Panay.</p> <p>During THACH's 2013 deployment to Central America, the ship disrupted over 379 kilograms of cocaine and more than 1,100 pounds of marijuana totaling over \$10 million. Due to budget limitations imposed by sequestration, the Secretary of Defense decided that the THACH would return to homeport earlier than expected.</p>
DANFS* Entry	Placeholder, 2013

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?	No
ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross?	No
iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	No
iv. Was the vessel was the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that	No

¹ Evaluation conducted using triggers established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.

represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Ineligible

Sources	NHHC Archives, Washington Navy Yard
	www.navsource.org/archives/07/0743.htm
	www.nvr.navy.mil/nvrships/details/FFG 43.htm

Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received ____ written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition